

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 3700

Application No. 09/937,238

Paper Dated: August 25, 2003

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of May 23, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 0702-011472

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-13 amended in Chapter II proceedings by substituting claims 1-11.

Claims 1-11 cancelled.

Claims 14-23 added in Preliminary Amendment dated September 21, 2001

renumbered by Examiner as claims 12-21.

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12. (Currently amended) A package of flexible material which has been formed into an envelope, which package comprises an access opening, which is closed by means of a seal which has been formed by bonding together two or more contacting layers of the material in a particular area, which package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded-together layers of material in said area, to which end the flexible material is provided with an engagement portion, wherein ~~the portion of the seal area that is positioned closest to said engagement portion has a convex edge, and wherein~~ said engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package ~~which is intended for enveloping~~ configured to envelop the packaged product, and ~~said convex edge is directed inwardly~~ wherein the seal extends the width of the package and is directed inwardly and downwardly towards the engagement portion and a bottom of the package, such that a central portion of the edge of the seal is immediately adjacent the engagement portion.

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13. (Currently amended) The package according to claim 14, wherein said ~~convex~~ edge of the seal comprises two substantially straight edge portions, which include an angle with each other.

14. (Currently amended) The package according to claim 14, wherein said ~~convex~~ edge of the seal is substantially curved.

15. (Previously presented) The package according to claim 14, wherein said area has substantially the same width along its length.

16. (Previously presented) The package according to claim 14, wherein the width of said area near the engagement portion is smaller than near the edges of said access opening.

17. (Previously presented) The package according to claim 14, wherein said seal is substantially in the form of a stripe.

18. (Previously presented) The package according to claim 14, wherein said seal is substantially in the form of a V-stripe.

19. (Previously presented) The package according to claim 14, wherein said package substantially consists of one piece of flexible material.

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20. (Currently amended) A method for producing a package of flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the location of an engagement portion, wherein ~~the part of the area located closest to said engagement portion is provided with a convex edge, and wherein~~ said engagement portion is positioned on the part of the package ~~which is intended for enveloping~~ configured to envelop the packaged product, and ~~said convex edge is directed inwardly~~ wherein the seal extends the width of the package and is directed inwardly and downwardly towards the engagement portion and a bottom of the package, such that a central portion of the edge of the seal is immediately adjacent the engagement portion.

21. (Currently amended) A method for packaging a product, wherein the product is enveloped with a flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the location of an engagement portion, wherein ~~the part of the area located closest to said engagement portion is provided with a convex edge, and wherein~~ said engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package ~~which is intended for enveloping~~ the packaged product, and ~~said convex edge is directed inwardly~~ wherein the seal extends the width of the package and is directed inwardly and downwardly towards the engagement portion and a

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bottom of the package, such that a central portion of the edge of the seal is immediately adjacent the engagement portion.